

December 20, 2002
Docket Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St., SW, PL- 401
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001
Comments on Docket No. FAA-2002-13378

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association, International (IPATA) is a trade association consisting of over 120 professional pet and animal shippers located throughout the United States and abroad. This worldwide network of pet transportation specialists is dedicated to the safe and humane transport of the family pet and other animals. IPATA endeavors to represent the interests of its members and of the pet/animal transportation industry to all key constituencies. In this case, the proposed regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration could have a negative effect on animal travel by air.

There does exist Federal legislation concerning the welfare and safety of animals in transit under the Animal Welfare Act with airline carriers reporting and responsible to the Department of Agriculture. The possibility of over-regulation with no benefit to the animals concerned looms large. Airline carriers, both foreign and domestic, faced with the added burden of reporting to duplicating Departments, could cease to transport animals causing significant economic and social impact. IPATA feels that there are sufficient rules and regulations in place to insure the safety and well being of animals traveling by air and urge you to reconsider the proposed regulations.

Sincerely yours,

James D. O'Brien

President

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